THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M· V· CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Banks give loans/advances to farmers and to agro-based industries and industries based on agriculture Loans/advances given to beneficiaries under the various Government sponsored schemes, such as, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) carry an element of subsidy as per the norms under the Schemes.

Agricultural loans given to farmers are mostly crop loans and investment loans. Crop loans are granted by banks based on the scale of finance as finalised by the technical committee constituted for each State/ District which takes into account the changes in the prices, level of inputs total cost of cultivation, gross yield, repaying capacity of the borrowers, etc. In the case of investment credit, the unit cost for various purposes, the number of units that constitute economic size etc, are indicated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)· The banks follow these norms to ensure that the credit needs of the borrowers are adequately met.

As far as loans/advances to agro-based industries and industries based on agriculture are concerned, they are appraised and sanctioned by banks keeping in view the total cost of investment, technical feasibility, financial viability, etc. Since the loans/advances to farmers are sanctioned based on the norms laid down, there is no discrimination involved in meeting their credit needs.

Export of handicrafts and handloom products from Gujarat

*37· SHRI V· RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for the development and export of handicrafts and handloom products from Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds sanctioned/released during the Eighth Plan period for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Schemes being implemented for the development and promotion of the handicrafts and handloom products in the country including those from the State of Gujarat, include: training, design and technical development, quality dying units, market development support, assistance for exhibitions, publicity and setting up of craft/handloom development centres, revival of languishing crafts, project package scheme, provision for margin money to destitute weavers integrated handloom village development programme, workshed-cum-housing scheme specialized training under the scheme for Training of Rural Youth for self employment (TRYSEM) and setting up of 1000 Common Facilities Centres under the motion Council (HEPC):—

The following steps are taken to boost exports of handicrafts and handloom products from the country including those from the State of Gujarat through Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and Handloom Export Promotion Council HEPC):—

(i) organising buyer-seller meets;

(ii) sponsoring of sales-com-study team abroad;

(iii) Participation in international fairs and exhibitions;

(iv) overseas publicity and publication of catalogues;

(v) organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, Indian Carpet Expo and Handloom Expo in the country;

(vi) conducting of workshop-seminars at important production centres;

(c) No State-wise allocation of funds is made in the handicrafts and handloom sectors. However the amount released under various schemes to the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Plan are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1992-93	24.33	165.03	189.36
1993-94	96.38	406.75	503.13
1994-95 (upto Dec. '94)	54.77	22.63	077.40

Essar Group of Companies

*38. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Essar Group of Companies imported second hand 'on-shore rig' under DEEC scheme which is open only to new equipments/machinery in contravention of Section 113(1) of the Customs Act; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said on-shore rig was manufactured by Magdalla Shipping Yard, Surat at all;

(c) whether the goods so imported were actually an on-shore rig or merely scrap;

(d) whether the goods were grossly over-valued with a motive to take higher benefits under DEEC scheme;

(e) whether there was a contract with the German importer, which normally is not permitted; and

(f) whether the documents submitted for obtaining Advance Licences were in conformity with the normal rules; and if not, what action has been taken/initiated for viloation of the Foreign Trade (D and R) Act, 1992, and the Customs Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY) : (a) to (f) No case of import of second hand "on-shore rig" by Essar Group of Companies under DEEC Scheme has been noticed. However, M/s. Essar World Trade Limited filed a Shipping Bill dated 22nd June, 1993 in Customs House, Bombay for export of one on-shore rig in knocked down condition provisionally under DEEC Scheme. Since it was noticed that the said on-shore rig was used one export under DEEC Scheme was disallowed. However, export was allowed under a Free Shipping Bill by the Additional Collector of Customs as it was observed by him that the invoice produced by the exporter at the time of export and verified by the Customs Appraiser had declared the goods to be used. The consignee as per Shipping Bill was M/s. Trans Energy Limited, St. Peter Port, Germany CI. As exports were permitted under Free Shipping Bill and export goods are not dutiable the valuation aspect was not examined. Since there did not appear to be any violation of provisions of Section 113(1) of the Customs Act, no case was registered in the Customs House.